

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-218 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

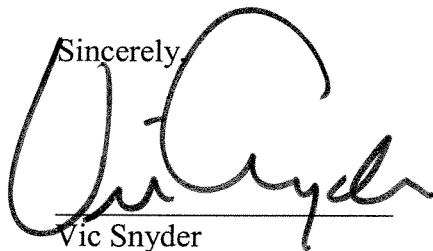
Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey:

The State of Arkansas has received an estimated 75,000 evacuees displaced by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Arkansas has received more evacuees per capita than any other state not directly impacted by the Hurricane.

On September 7, 2005, the State of Arkansas applied for a \$30 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) in order to assist 15,000 of the dislocated workers from the Gulf South Region who are currently in Arkansas. Arkansas needs this funding in order to continue to help and adequately provide assistance to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. It is our understanding that the Department of Labor funds for NEG have been depleted.

It is our hope that the next Supplemental Appropriations bill will include a request for increased appropriations for the NEG fund, so that Arkansas can meet the necessary needs of the evacuees from Mississippi and New Orleans. As you may know, Arkansas is receiving at least an additional 4,000 evacuees due to Hurricane Rita, making this request an imminent priority. We look forward to working with the House Appropriations Committee to continue to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

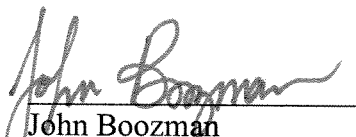
Sincerely,



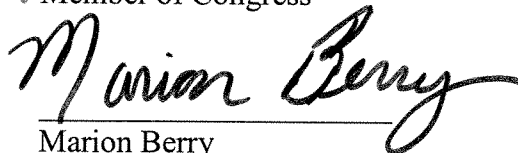
Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



John Boozman
Member of Congress



Marion Berry
Member of Congress